

**GEORGIA COMPOSITE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS,
SOCIAL WORKERS AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS**
Conference Call/ZOOM Board Meeting Minutes – July 22, 2022 * 3:45 PM

The Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists met via teleconference/ZOOM on Friday, July 22, 2022. The Board's Executive Director hosted the meeting from the Professional Licensing Division, 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia 31217.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Angie Smith, LPC Chair
Kay Gresham, CSW, Vice-Chair
Gregory Moffatt, LPC
Jacqueline Brown-Pinkney, CSW
Paul "Andy" Carrier, CSW
William "David" Lane, MFT
Brent Herrin, Consumer Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bonnie Barker, LPC
Bridget Knowles, MFT
MFT Member (VACANT)

ATTORNEY GENERALS' OFFICE:

Mary Brannen, Esq., AAG

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director
Linsey Joiner, Board Support Specialist
Kimberly Candler, Licensing Analyst
Kathy Jones, Licensing Analyst
Amanda Allen, Licensing Supervisor

VISITORS PRESENT:

Anna Jackson	Brentia Caldwell	Shawnetta Green
Lisa Morris	Emily	Stephanie Thom
Dr. R	Jennifer's Iphone	Jeff Hughes
Sloan	Johntavious Jones	Sdavis
Breanna Bradley	Kelly Pierce	Carol May
Dr. Davis	Laura Mallard	Naisha Jones, CSW
Anna Beilman	Ruby Blow	Nicole Tholmer
April Miller	Shannon Shelton	

Angie Smith, LPC, Chair, established that a quorum was present and called the Board meeting to order at 3:48 p.m.

Agenda: Approved with no additional late items.

Policy VIII. Georgia Law Effective July 1, 2022 – Counselors

A. Applications and Licensure received, and date stamped on or before June 30, 2022:

Individuals who submitted an application for initial licensure as an **Associate Professional Counselor or Licensed Professional Counselor (APC/LPC)** which was **received and date stamped** by the Professional Licensing Board division staff **on or before June 30, 2022**, shall be required to meet the prior statutory licensure requirements and Board rules for education and directed work experience in effect prior to July 1, 2022. Specifically, in addition to other requirements, to include those previously outlined in O.C.G.A. § 43-10A-11(a), the following shall be required:

For licensure as an Associate Professional Counselor:

- A master's degree from a recognized educational institution in a program that is primarily counseling in content or in a program of applied psychology, which degree includes a supervised internship or practicum as part of the degree program and registration with the board of an acceptable contract for obtaining the post-master's experience under direction and supervision required for licensure as a professional counselor.

For licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor (not previously licensed as an APC):

- A doctoral degree from a recognized educational institution in a program that is primarily counseling in content and requires at least one-year of a supervised internship in a work setting acceptable to the Board; or
- A specialist degree from a recognized educational institution in a program that is primarily counseling in content with supervised internship or practicum and two-years of post-master's directed experience under supervision in a setting acceptable to the Board; or
- A master's degree in rehabilitation counseling or in a program that is primarily counseling in content from a recognized educational institution with supervised internship or practicum and three years of post-masters directed experience providing rehabilitation services in a rehabilitation setting under supervision. Up to one year of such experience may have been in an approved practicum or internship placement as part of the degree program; or
- A master's degree from a recognized educational institution in a program that is primarily counseling in content with supervised internship or practicum and four years of post-masters directed experience under supervision in a setting acceptable to the Board. Up to one year of such experience may have been in an approved practicum placement as part of the degree program: or
- A master's degree from a recognized educational institution in a program of applied psychology with supervised internship or practicum and four years of post-masters directed experience under supervision in a setting acceptable to the Board. Up to one year of such experience may have been in an approved practicum placement as part of the degree program.

For licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor (previously licensed as an APC)

Individuals submitting an application for a **Licensed Professional Counselor license who were previously licensed by the Board as an Associate Professional Counselor based on an application for APC licensure received and date stamped on or before June 30, 2022,** and their educational and directed work experience requirements having already been approved by the Board, shall not be subject to the new statutory provisions for the

educational degree or number of years of directed work experience under supervision. Their application for a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) license shall be reviewed and processed pursuant only to the statutory requirements and Board rules in place **on and before June 30, 2022, regardless of their date of application.** Specifically, the statutory requirements to become licensed as a Licensed Professional Counselor, for these referenced individuals, shall include the following:

- A master's degree from a recognized educational institution in a program that is primarily counseling in content or in a program of applied psychology, with supervised internship or practicum and four years of post-masters directed experience under supervision in a setting acceptable to the Board. Up to one year of such experience may have been in an approved practicum placement as part of the degree program.

B. Applications and Licensure received, and date stamped on or after July 1, 2022:

Individuals submitting an application for an initial license as an **Associate Professional Counselor or Licensed Professional Counselor (APC/LPC)** **received and date stamped** by the Professional Licensing Board Division **on or after July 1, 2022** shall be required to meet the new statutory provisions for licensure (and any Board rules promulgated after July 1, 2022). Specifically, these applicants, in addition to other requirements outlined in O.C.G.A. § 43-10A-11(a), must demonstrate the following:

For licensure as an Associate Professional Counselor:

- A minimum of an earned master's degree or higher from a regionally accredited program in clinical counseling or counseling psychology that consists of **at least 60 semester hours or 80 quarter hours** with an approved supervised internship or practicum that is primarily counseling in content as part of the degree program; and
- Registration with the Board of an acceptable contract for obtaining the post-degree experience under direction and supervision that is required for licensure as a professional counselor.

For licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor:

- A minimum of an earned master's degree or higher from a regionally accredited program in clinical counseling or counseling psychology that consists of **at least 60 semester hours or 80 quarter hours** with an approved supervised internship or practicum that is primarily counseling in content as part of the degree program; and
- **Two years** of post-degree experience under direction and supervision in a work setting acceptable to the Board; or

- A doctoral degree from a recognized educational institution in a program that is primarily counseling in content and requires at least one-year of a supervised internship in a work setting acceptable to the Board.

Mr. Moffatt motioned, Mr. Lane seconded, and the Board voted to adopt Policy VIII. Georgia Law Effective July 1, 2022 – Counselors as presented. None opposed, motion carried

Mr. Herrin moved, Ms. Gresham seconded, and the Board voted to post the proposed Policy VIII. Georgia Law Effective July 1, 2022 – Counselors for the minimum thirty days for public view with a public rule hearing to be scheduled for the next available date following the thirty-day public posting. None opposed, motion carried.

With no additional Board business requiring discussion, the Board meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes recorded by:

Linsey Joiner, Board Support Specialist

Minutes reviewed and edited by:

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director, HC-1

ANGIE SMITH

Chair

BRIG ZIMMERMAN

Executive Director

Minutes approved: **August 12, 2022**